

2823 a7728 Strange and VVonderful

# NEWS

From Kensington.

BEING

A most Full and True

# RELATION

HOVV A

# MAID

There, is Supposed to have been  
Carryed away by an

# EVIL SPIRIT,

On *Wednesday* the 15th. of *April* last,  
about Midnight.

With the manner of the Spirits appearing to her several times  
before, as she related, tempting her to Cheat and Rob her  
Master, and giving her a Key to come at his Money, and diverse  
other strange and remarkable Circumstances.

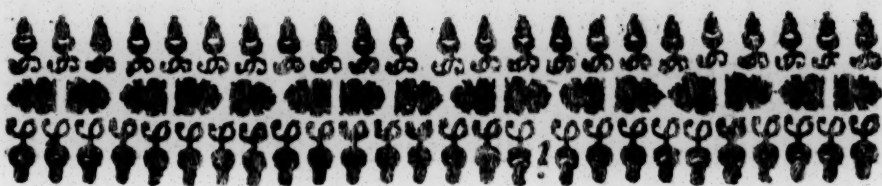
*Procul esto pervicaci  
Præfigiator Astu  
O tortuose serpens!*

*Qui mille per Meandros  
Frangitq; Flexuosas  
Agitas quæta Corda. prud. in hymn.*

With Allowance.

Printed for P. Brooksby, in *West-smith-field*. 1674.





## Strange News from Kensington, &c.

**M**ost aptly do the Holy Scriptures compare the Devil to a roaring Lyon, that continually goes about and compasses the earth, seeking whom he may devour: for having degenerated from the Original purity, wherein the great Creator had invested him, and plunged himself into a state, both of the greatest Malignity and Misery: 'tis now his whole endeavour (and he cannot but endeavour it) to tempt and inveigle all others into the same Lake of perdition with himself, wherein he hath a thousand ways, methods, and inventions, called by the blessed Apostle sometimes the wiles of the Tempter, sometimes the snares of the Devil, and in another place, the depths of Satan: of these, some



are more private, occult, and secret, as suggesting, or injecting vain and wicked thoughts, presenting enluring objects, baiting the senses, working upon the humours, or taking the advantages of tempers and complexions; others more open and aparent, when he assumes shapes, and counterfeits a humane voice to accomplish his design, which is always the seducing and destruction of souls; of which last kind we conceive the late strange and wonderful accident hapning at *Kensington*, seems fit, be accounted an Instance: however since every man abounds in his own sense, we shall nakedly relate the truth of the matter of Fact, as it hapned, leaving each Reader to discant on it as his particular humour shall encline him. As for the truth and certainty of the thing, there is scarce a person in *Kensington*, but can amply satisfy the curiosity of any that shall there enquire after it.

A Gentleman of good quality and repute living now not far from *Kensington*, coming some years since out of *Ireland* with his family, brought from thence a young Maid or Girl named *Margaret* (what her Sir-name was, or whether originally of *English* or *Irish* extraction, we are not certainly informed) and because this Gentleman took her young off from her poor Relations hands, she was bound to him as an Aprentice for a certain Term, which is reported to have been twelve years, of which she had now served about seven, and was grown to womans stature: for her qualities, she was generally of a pretty good Nature, Laborious and honest, very quiet, and reserved sometimetimes to a degree of fullness, which for  
about

about half a year last past, has especially been observed in her deportment; about a quarter of a year since she told some of the servants or family, that she was much troubled, and that something came to her, and put her upon the doing of some strange things, that she had no inclination to: they askt her who it was, she answered, she neither knew who, nor what it was, but it came to her in the likeness of a man in gray cloaths, and talk to her as one, but she did not know him, and yet had not power to ask him who he was, or whence he came, and that he came to her oftneft in the evening, if she did but go never so little way out of doors on any occasion, but being urged to tell what it was he would have her do, she for that time refused to declare the same.

Some time after, her Master having taken in a considerable quantity of coals last winter, and stow'd them in a room at *Hammer Smith*, intending to vend them there again by retale, sent her thither one morning early to stay there and measure them out to any that had occasion to buy; here the first customer she had was this grey-coat Gentleman, but it was not for Coals, but her precious soul, as appeared by his tempting discourse, for he told her, that wanting money and good things, as she did, he told her she was a fool if she did not get a little now, having so fair an opportunity; that she should sell a great many Coals that day, and might easily keep the price of a bushel or two to her self, and that it was impossible it should be discovered or found out: and indeed she did sell a pretty many that day (and as some report she has related) did once resolve to have kept back some of the money, but conscience opposing, the good principle

p'e at last overcame for this time the temptation , and the going home , honestly gave a true account to her Master or Mistriss.

Another time this restless temper , who leaves no stone unturn'd for the ruine of souls , comming to this Maid [as she afterwards related] told her where her Masters Money lay, & that she might with the greatest ease and safety in the world get what she pleased of it ; but she alledging that it was fast lock't up, and that she knew not how to come at it. He thereupon (as some reports) gave her a Key that would open the Lock at any time, others say, he only shew'd her a way to open and shut it again, but however she came to it, certain it is she was a very modest Thief, and took out only one five shilling-piece , which her cursed Tutor assur'd her should never be missed, and would have had her took more , but this was more then she well knevv vvhath to do vvith, and so she told him that she did not knowv any necessary thing that she vvanted to buy vvith it. Whereupon he told her she must make herself fine, and therefore her best vvay vvould be to lay it out upon Ribbons , vvich next time she came dovvn into *Kensington-Town* she did accordingly. Thus vve see the Devils Method , he makes one sin a bait to another, first he prompts her to steal , and then encourages her to squander avvay vainly what she came by so unjustly, to feed her pride ; Thus the subtle Tempter thought (as we say in the proverb) *To Kill two Birds with one stone* , and render her guilty of two sins at once.

But when she came home reflecting on what she had done , her Conscience raised a Tempest in her Breast,  
In-



Insomuch that after some short time she could not forbear the whole story to her Mistress, to whom some say she delivered the Ribbon, and ( as others report ) desired her prayers.

But whether all this was lockt upon onely as some melancholly Crotchets, or dreaming devises of a silly Girl we know not, no extraordinary notice was taken of it, but she continued going about her businesse as formerly till *wednesday* the 15<sup>th</sup>. of *April* last past, at which time having been very sad and melancholly all day, the Family on some occasion sitting up very late that night, she being in the Room desired to know what it was a Clock, to which her Master or Mistress answered. That whatever time of the night it was, it signified nothing to her, for if she had done her work, she might get her gone to bed; They keeping another Maid that might set up, but this not satisfying her, she still staid up, and after some time askt again what it was a Clock, to which somebody answered that it was twelve, *Is it full twelve*, replied she, to which being Answered *Yes*, *Then*, saith she, *I must be gone*, and immediately goes out of the house into a little back-yard, out of which there was no passage, they within taking no further notice of her Words then that she meant, she must be gone to Bed, regarding her not at present, but soon after being all ready to go to bed themselves, lookt into the yard for her, where not finding her, and seeing all the doors fast, they conclude her gone to bed before, but this they quickly perceived to be a mistake, nor has she been seen or heard of since.

It is observable that the Wench had pretty good  
cloaths,

cloaths, some lately made, in her own keeping, and yet she took none of them with her, nor any Linnen, nor did she wrong her Master or Mistrés at her going of a Farthing, but on the contrary haveing a good pair of shooes on all that day, at night she put them off, and put on an old pair of Slippers in which she went away, and a good Hood she had on was left hanging in the Yard.

'Tis not to be doubred but the Girl being so strangely gone, put the Gentleman with his Lady and rest of the Family into a surprize, who early next morning make diligent inquiry after her, but can hear no tydings, nor discover the least tract or footsteps which way she should be gone, but on the contrary find the wonder increased, several of the Neighbours in the great House that lay nigh, very confidently affirming that about midnight they heard a most violent Gust of Wind, like to blow the house down, and at the same time heard the most grievous and dismal screeches and cryings out that ever they heard in their Lives. But of all this her Mistrés's family heard nothing.

*Her Master has been at much pains in Inquiry after her every way, and in searching all the ponds near, fearing lest she might have drowned her self, but cannot receive the least intelligence of, or concerning her.*

**F I N I S,**





